



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
OREGON OPERATIONS OFFICE
805 SW Broadway, Suite 500
Portland, Oregon 97205

May 14, 2009

Mr. Robert Wyatt
Northwest Natural & Chairman, Lower Willamette Group
220 Northwest Second Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97209

Re: Portland Harbor Superfund Site; Administrative Order on Consent for Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study; Docket No. CERCLA-10-2001-0240 – Sediment and Tissue Sample Disposal

Dear Mr. Wyatt:

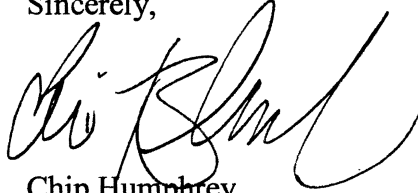
In your letter dated January 22, 2009, you requested confirmation that the Lower Willamette Group may dispose of all Round 1 and Round 2 samples. In our response letter dated January 29, 2009, EPA requested a table presenting a summary of all samples currently stored. This list should include sample name, sample type, analyses performed (if any) and any other relevant information. This information was provided to EPA on March 5, 2009.

The disposal of samples was discussed at our management meeting on March 11, 2009. At that time, EPA requested that the LWG retain all Round 1 and Round 2 sediment samples pending results of the polybrominated diphenyl ether (PBDE) analysis currently be performed on select Round 3 biota tissue samples. Once the PBDE tissue results have been received and evaluated, EPA will determine which sediment samples, if any, should be retained for PBDE or any other analysis and which sediment samples may be disposed of.

The disposal of tissue samples was discussed during our management meeting on April 15, 2009. During that meeting, the Portland Harbor Natural Resource Trustees (Trustees) requested retention of Round 1 sculpin, carp and juvenile salmonids tissue samples with the exception of sculpin samples that were "out of temperature compliance." The Trustees have stated that they will agree to store the Round 1 tissue samples. EPA understands that the LWG will be developing a cost estimate for the packaging and shipment of these samples to the Trustees. Rob Neely is discussing with LWG representatives the logistics of tissue sample shipment to the Trustees.

If you have any questions, please contact Chip Humphrey at (503) 326-2678 or Eric Blischke (503) 326-4006. All legal inquiries should be directed to Lori Cora at (206) 553-1115.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chip Humphrey', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Chip Humphrey
Eric Blischke
Remedial Project Managers

cc: Greg Ulirsch, ATSDR
Rob Neely, NOAA
Ted Buerger, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Preston Sleeper, Department of Interior
Jim Anderson, DEQ
Kurt Burkholder, Oregon DOJ
David Farrer, Oregon Environmental Health Assessment Program
Rick Keppler, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Michael Karnosh, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Tom Downey, Confederated Tribes of Siletz
Audie Huber, Confederated Tribes of Umatilla
Brian Cunningham, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
Erin Madden, Nez Perce Tribe
Rose Longoria, Confederated Tribes of Yakama Nation